



Regulatory Welsh- Medium Qualifications Policy

AUGUST 2021



Version Control and Review

This is **Version 3** of Qualifications Wales' Regulatory Welsh-Medium Qualifications Policy and following a review conducted in 2020 was published on 25 August 2021.

We keep our policies under review and any feedback on this policy is welcomed at any time. Please send any comments to policy@qualificationswales.org

This policy is also available in [Welsh](#).

Contents

Introduction	1
Our remit and commitment	1
Choice for All	2
Welsh-medium qualifications	2
Our requirements	3
1. Language of assessment – general application	3
2. Qualification-specific requirements	4
3. Other qualification-specific requirements	5
4. Submitting qualifications to QiW	5
5. Equality and accessibility	5
Working towards an ‘Active Offer’	5
Supporting Awarding Bodies	6
Annex 1	7

Introduction

1. This policy is relevant to all awarding bodies that have been recognised by us under Section 4 (Recognition of awarding bodies) of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 ("the Act").
2. This is a Regulatory Document and it sets out our requirements on awarding bodies regarding the development, delivery and/or award of Welsh-medium qualifications. This document should be read in conjunction with the Standard Conditions of Recognition and all other applicable Regulatory Documents including any qualification-specific conditions and criteria.
3. Requirements are set out at paragraphs 16.1 and 16.2 of this Regulatory Document and must be complied with by all recognised awarding bodies in accordance with Condition B7.1 of the Standard Conditions of Recognition. All recognised awarding bodies are obliged to take all reasonable steps to increase the availability of assessment through the medium of Welsh for all Other Designated qualifications as set out in paragraph 16.3.
4. In addition to formal regulatory requirements, we also provide wider context to awarding bodies in this document and signal our intention and commitment to increase the availability of Welsh-medium qualifications. In addition to the sections outlining requirements, in accordance with Condition B7.2 awarding bodies must have due regard for all other parts of this Regulatory Document.
5. Alongside this policy, we intend to continue to support awarding bodies to increase the availability of their Welsh-medium qualifications.

Our remit and commitment

6. As stated in the Act, our principal aims are:
 - (a) ensuring that qualifications, and the Welsh qualification system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales; and
 - (b) promoting public confidence in qualifications and in the Welsh qualification system.
7. In considering what is appropriate for the purposes of achieving our principal aims we must have due regard to the eight matters in the Act, one of which is to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language. Through this policy we will promote and facilitate:

- the use of the Welsh language across all qualifications made available to learners in Wales; and
- the provision of assessment through the medium of Welsh.

Choice for All

8. Our 'Choice for All' [strategy](#) clearly sets out our commitment to the Welsh language and to increasing Welsh-medium qualifications that are made available to learners in Wales. To this end, we expect awarding bodies to seek opportunities to increase their Welsh-medium provision and we will encourage and support them to do so.
9. If these expectations cannot be met, and where we identify gaps in provision, we will consider the regulatory powers available to us to secure this provision. We are keen to work with our partners and to contribute towards Welsh Government's [Cymraeg 2050](#) priorities.
10. *Choice for All* sets out four strategic areas of focus:
 - 10.1. Prioritising qualifications to be made available in Welsh in full-time education, post-16 settings, and apprenticeships;
 - 10.2. Strengthening support for awarding bodies and their capacity to deliver Welsh-medium qualifications;
 - 10.3. Revising Qualifications Wales's Welsh Language Support grant to align with the new strategy, to focus on priority areas, new qualifications and innovative applications; and
 - 10.4. Improving information for learners, their schools and colleges, and data for regulatory purposes.

Welsh-medium qualifications

11. Welsh-medium qualifications are those where any assessment to be completed by a learner must be made available to them in Welsh. This means every part of the assessment, such as units or components, and in whichever format, whether paper or digital.

12. We recognise that some awarding bodies offer partial Welsh-medium provision as part of their journey to increasing their offer. Where one or more units/ components of a qualification are available to be completed by the learner in Welsh but not all, these qualifications are not defined as Welsh-medium and must not be labelled as such. These qualifications can be described as 'partially' Welsh-medium on QiW and in awarding body marketing materials as partially available in Welsh.
13. Qualifications labelled on the QiW database as Welsh-medium mean that all units or components are available to be completed in Welsh by the learner. For a qualification to be Welsh-medium, the following is the minimum that must be made available in Welsh:
 - 13.1. All assessment materials whether exam or other form of paper, on-screen, or digital questions to be completed by the learner;
 - 13.2. The specification for the qualification, including any relevant terminology required for the qualification;
 - 13.3. Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs), where applicable; and
 - 13.4. Any other materials that are made mandatory by the awarding body for the learner to have the opportunity to obtain the qualification.
14. Where a qualification is Welsh-medium, this does not preclude the qualification from also being available in English. Where qualifications are made available by awarding bodies in both Welsh and in English, learners may choose to complete some or all components of the qualification in either Welsh or English. There are centres that teach bilingually – in Welsh and in English – and learners may choose to complete their assessments bilingually i.e. some components of the qualification in Welsh and others in English. This is learner choice/ language preference and is distinct from the awarding body making all their assessments available in Welsh from which the learner can choose.

Our requirements

15. Language of the assessment – general application

- 15.1. The Standard Conditions of Recognition relating to the language in which a qualification is assessed (whether in Welsh or English or another language) are set out in Conditions G2.1 - G2.4 entitled 'Language of the Assessment'. Those Conditions are applicable to all awarding bodies and qualifications.
- 15.2. In addition to Conditions G2.1 – G2.4 of the Standard Conditions of Recognition, where awarding bodies develop, deliver or award qualifications described in paragraphs 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3 of this document, they must comply with this regulatory document as required by Condition B7.1.

16. Qualification-specific requirements

- 16.1. All awarding bodies must make all their **Approved**¹ qualifications available for assessment in Welsh.
- 16.2. All awarding bodies must make available all² their **Designated**³ qualifications for assessment in Welsh for first teaching from September 2027 (or any date specified by us), where these are offered to learners being taught on programmes of learning that are eligible for public funding pre-16.
- 16.3. For Designated qualifications not covered by paragraph 16.2 and all **Other Regulated** qualifications, Qualifications Wales requires awarding bodies to take all reasonable steps to increase the availability of assessment through the Welsh-medium.
- 16.4. In complying with paragraph 16.3 above, awarding bodies should prioritise qualifications:
- 16.4.1. in priority areas that have been identified in national strategies as requiring increased provision in Welsh;
 - 16.4.2. relating to post-16 settings and priority sectors therein;
 - 16.4.3. that address gaps in Welsh-medium provision; and

¹ <http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/approval-of-qualifications/?lang=en>

² other than those where the primary objective of a qualification requires the learner to be assessed in any other language to gain knowledge of, skills in, and understanding of that language.

³ <https://qualificationswales.org/english/publications/designation-policy/>

16.4.4. that are more likely to lead to progression and/or employment where there is use of Welsh.

17. Other qualification-specific requirements

17.1. There are also qualification-specific requirements set out in relevant regulatory documents, such as individual Subject Approval Criteria.

18. Submitting qualifications to QiW

18.1. All qualifications that are in scope of recognition, whether Approved, Designated or Other Regulated, must be submitted to QiW and must include clear and accurate information on the language(s) in which the assessment is available (Welsh only/ English only/ both Welsh and English).

19. Equality and accessibility

19.1. Learners undertaking an assessment in Welsh must not be advantaged or disadvantaged compared to learners completing the equivalent assessment in English.

19.2. Where assessments are available in Welsh and English, learners must be able to access these as easily as English versions, including being able to navigate to the language of their choice within digital assessments.

19.3. In accordance with Standard Condition G2.4, awarding bodies must take all reasonable steps to ensure that assessments in Welsh and English ensure a consistent Level of Demand⁴ for Learners.

Working towards an 'Active Offer'

20. Facilitating and encouraging the use of the Welsh language is called the 'Active Offer'. This means making a qualification and/or service available in Welsh without someone having to ask for it.

⁴ For more information, refer to Condition G1 and section J of our Standard Conditions of Recognition.

21. The following are examples of actions awarding bodies may take to facilitate and encourage the use of Welsh and increase availability of Welsh-medium qualifications in accordance with our Choice for All strategy and in our guidance:

- (a) becoming more proactive in your relationship with centres to identify gaps and opportunities for future provision;
- (b) ensuring that published marketing materials including the website clearly show which qualifications are available in Welsh;
- (c) actively facilitating and encouraging learners to take Welsh-medium qualifications;
- (d) raising staff awareness of the qualification awarding bodies offer in Welsh, our Choice for All strategy and the legislation including rights for Welsh speakers under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011; and
- (e) collecting data on language preferences at registration/ enrolment or other timely stage, and based on this evidence, proactively arranging assessors, moderators and verifiers who are able to work through the medium of Welsh to match the language preferences of learners.

Supporting Awarding Bodies

22. We will continue to work with awarding bodies to support Welsh-medium provision. Our Choice for All strategy sets out how we are supporting awarding bodies in more detail, but for the purposes of this policy, the main ways we support awarding bodies include the following:

- Financial support - grants to support promotion and availability of Welsh medium qualifications or for training staff and building capacity;
- Guidance - [Good practice guidance](#) on the development, delivery and awarding of Welsh-medium qualifications including case studies, useful contacts and additional references; and
- Information sharing and facilitation – the Awarding Body Welsh Language Support Group meets regularly to share experiences and best practice on a range of matters of interest.

This document can be found on our list of [Regulatory Documents](#)

Annex 1

Relevant Conditions of Recognition

Condition B7 – Awarding bodies' compliance with Regulatory Documents

- B7.1** Where a Regulatory Document requires an awarding body to take or to refrain from taking any action, the awarding body must comply with that requirement.
- B7.2** Where a Regulatory Document sets out guidelines or principles of good practice in relation to any behaviour on the part of an awarding body, the awarding body must have regard to those guidelines or principles before it engages in that behaviour.

Condition G2 – Language of the assessment

- G2.1** An awarding body must ensure that all Learners taking its qualifications are assessed in Welsh and/or English in Wales except to the extent that the use of another language is permitted by this Condition.
- G2.4** Where an awarding body makes available a qualification in more than one language, the awarding body must take all reasonable steps to ensure that assessments in different languages ensure a consistent Level of Demand for Learners.